

OLD STONE CHURCH. (Presbyterian)  
LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, W.VA.

H.A.B.S. NO. 21-1

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HABS  
W.VA,  
13-LEWBU,  
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ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA.  
DISTRICT NO. 21.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY.  
HERBERT S. KYLE, A.I.A. DISTRICT OFFICER.  
1106 UNION TRUST BLDG, CHARLESTON, W.VA.

HABS  
W. VA,

13- LEWBU,

1-

OLD STONE CHURCH  
(Presbyterian)  
Lewisburg, Greenbrier County  
West Virginia

Owner: Presbyterian Church.

Date of Erection: 1796.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Stone.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

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The Presbyterian church at Lewisburg, known as the "Old Stone Church," is the largest and finest church in West Virginia that has come down from Pioneer days, and has been in continuous use to the present day.

The Rev. John McCue, ordained by Old Hanover Presbytery on May 22, 1782, was sent to Old Stone as its first pastor. He was installed in the original church at this place, a cabin of unhewn logs, with a puncheon floor, puncheon seats, a clapboard roof, and two small windows, designed to let in some light, but principally as a guard against Indians.

In 1792 Lewisburg was formally laid out and building laws were enacted. Pioneer pride prompted a finer church building. The settlers were intent upon erecting a church of some splendor, and, regardless of the handicap of primitive tools and crude materials from the wilderness, this they did. Although the church was erected in newly settled land where building utility rather than architectural beauty was desired, there is something intangibly fine about the old church, which is apparent even in our present day of more expensive churches. It has been called "a little classic of early pioneer architecture." It is built of native stone, and tradition tells us that the sand used in the building was carried by the women of the congregation from the Greenbrier River, four miles away, in

sacks thrown across the saddles of their horses. The lime for mortar was burned from native stone, slacked and buried to cool. It is very hard and durable to the present day.

The first pastors were Rev. McGue, 1782-1794, Rev. Benjamin Grigsby, 1794-1808, Rev. John McElhenny, 1808-1871, whose work extended from Lexington in the east to the Ohio River in the west, and 100 miles north and south. During Rev. McElhenny's pastorate, churches all over this territory sprang up, and Old Stone became the direct dominating force in the cultural life of the community. Succeeding pastors have been: Rev. John Calvin Barr, Dr. Mathew Lyle Lacy, Rev. John W. Rosebro, Rev. David E. Frierson, Rev. Robert F. Telford, Rev. Wm. McC. White, Rev. Eugene Danile, Rev. D. F. McGeachy, Rev. Warner H. DuBois, and the present pastor, the Rev. Lloyd McF. Courtney.

Many thousands have worshipped in the old church. Millard Fillmore, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, John Tyler, John Marshall, Stephen Decatur, Patrick Henry and other notables are purported to have visited the spot during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

*Reviewed 1936, H.C. Truman*

Old Stone Church (Presbyterian Church)  
SE side Church St. between Washington St.  
(U. S. Rte. 60) and Foster St.  
Lewisburg  
Greenbrier County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WVA-21-1

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Addendum to  
Presbyterian Church  
Lewisburg  
Greenbrier County  
West Virginia  
in HABS Catalog (1941)

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Addendum to  
Old Stone Church (Presbyterian)  
SE side of Church Street, between  
Washington Street (U. S. Route  
60) and Foster Street  
Lewisburg  
Greenbrier County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-21-1

HABS  
WVA,  
13-LEWBU,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPH

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National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240